

What is claimed is:

1. An instrument for aiding in aligning a prosthetic device for insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising an annular housing, a plunger member disposed within the annular housing and adapted to be moved therethrough, and an anchoring device partially disposed within the annular housing, the anchoring device adapted to be driven by the plunger member.
2. The instrument of claim 1 wherein the annular housing includes a threaded surface and the plunger member includes a threaded surface for engaging the threaded surface of the annular housing.
3. The instrument of claim 1 wherein the anchoring device is a bone screw.
4. The instrument of claim 1 wherein the annular housing is stepped in diameter to divide the annular housing into a first portion and a second portion, the first portion having a diameter greater than the second portion.
5. The instrument of claim 4 wherein the first portion includes a first radiographic marker housed therein, and the second portion includes a second radiographic marker housed therein, the second radiographic marker having a diameter smaller than that of the first radiographic marker.
6. The instrument of claim 5 wherein the first and second radiographic markers cooperate with a fluoroscopic machine to align the instrument.
7. The instrument of claim 3 wherein the bone screw comprises a spherical-shaped screw head disposed within the annular housing and a threaded connector extending from the screw head to an area outside of the annular housing.
8. The instrument of claim 7 wherein a distal end of the plunger member comprises a recess defined therein, the recess being shaped to correspond to the shape of the screw head.

9. The instrument of claim 1 further comprising a knob operatively connected to the plunger member such that rotation of the knob imparts rotation to the plunger member.

10. The instrument of claim 1 further comprising a bubble level operatively connected to the annular housing.

11. An assembly for aligning a prosthetic device for insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising means for anchoring an alignment instrument in a vertebral body disposed adjacent to the intervertebral space, means for operatively connecting an implantation device to the alignment instrument, the prosthetic device being disposed on the implantation device, and means for adjusting the implantation device to position the prosthetic device adjacent to the intervertebral space.

12. An assembly for aligning a prosthetic device for insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising an alignment instrument, a first clamp assembly slidably engaged with the alignment instrument, a second clamp assembly slidably engaged with the first clamp assembly, and an implantation device slidably engaged with the second clamp assembly, the implantation device being adapted to retain a prosthetic device thereon.

13. The assembly of claim 12 wherein the alignment instrument comprises a means for engaging an anchoring device partially disposed within the alignment instrument and driving the anchoring device into bone.

14. The assembly of claim 13 wherein the alignment instrument further comprises means for aligning the alignment instrument.

15. The assembly of claim 14 wherein the means for aligning the alignment instrument is a radiographic marker adapted to cooperate with a fluoroscopic machine.

16. The assembly of claim 14 wherein the means for aligning the alignment instrument is a bubble level device operatively connected to the alignment instrument.

17. The assembly of claim 12 wherein the first clamp assembly comprises a connector, the connector being adapted to lock the first clamp assembly, thereby restricting movement of the first clamp assembly along the alignment instrument.

18. The assembly of claim 12 wherein the second clamp assembly comprises a connector, the connector being adapted to lock the second clamp assembly, thereby restricting movement of the second clamp assembly along the first clamp assembly.

19. The assembly of claim 18 wherein the second clamp assembly comprises an additional connector, the additional connector being adapted to lock the implantation device, thereby restricting movement of the implantation device along the second clamp assembly.

20. A method for aligning a prosthetic device for insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising providing an alignment instrument having an anchoring device extending therefrom, engaging the anchoring device with a vertebral body located adjacent to the intervertebral space, aligning the alignment instrument relative to the intervertebral space, driving the anchoring device into the vertebral body, and providing an implantation device adjacent to the alignment instrument via a clamp assembly operatively connected to the alignment instrument, the implantation device holding the prosthetic device at a distal end thereof.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein aligning the alignment instrument comprises aligning a radiographic marker disposed within the alignment instrument via a fluoroscopic machine.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein aligning the alignment instrument comprises viewing a bubble level device operatively connected to the alignment instrument.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein the clamp assembly is operatively connected to the alignment instrument via a second clamp assembly.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising slidably adjusting the second clamp assembly along the alignment instrument to position the prosthetic device adjacent to the intervertebral space

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising locking the second clamp assembly to the alignment instrument.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising slidably adjusting the first clamp assembly along the second clamp assembly to further position the prosthetic device adjacent to the intervertebral space.

27. The method of claim 26 further comprising locking the first clamp assembly to the second clamp assembly.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising slidably adjusting the implantation device along the first clamp assembly to further position the prosthetic device adjacent to the intervertebral space.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising locking the implantation device to the first clamp assembly.